

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 13 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Jacques et al.; Claims 17 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacques et al. and Claims 11, 14-16, 18, 20-21 and 23 have been allowed. New Claim 24-27 have been added and thus, Claims 11 and 13-27 remain active.

Considering first then the rejection of Claims 13 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Jacques et al. and the rejection of Claims 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacques et al., it is to be noted Claims 13, 17, 19 and 20 have now been canceled, without prejudice, and new Claims 24-27 have been added.

With regard to new Claims 24-27, it is to be noted that new Claims 24 and 25 depend, respectively, from allowed Claims 14 and 23 and new Claims 26 and 27 correspond with allowed Claims 11 and 14 but do not include means -plus- function limitations. In view of the foregoing and in view of the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 11, 14-16, 18, 20-21 and 23, it is submitted that all claims now pending merit an indication of allowability with the same being hereby respectfully requested.

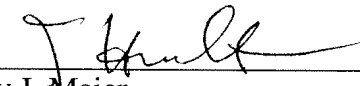
In view of the foregoing, an early and favorable Office Action is believed to be in order and the same is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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